

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the BLACKROD URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District during the year 1938.

General Statistics.

Area (Acres)	2392·394
Population (Census 1931)	3599
Number of Inhabited Houses	910
Rateable value	£11,355
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£47/6/3

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the year 1938.

			Total	Males	Females
Live Births	{ Legitimate ... ..	...	37	20	17
	{ Illegitimate ... ..	...	1	1	—
			—	—	—
	Total ... ..	...	38	21	17

Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population, 11·6

Still-births 3 2 1

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births, 73.

Deaths 38 23 15

Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 11·6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis, nil. Other Puerperal causes, nil

Death-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births, nil.

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1000 live births ...	...	...	181
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births ...	...	...	135
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births			nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea under (2 years of age)	...	...	1

Population estimated
mid 1938—3620

	Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live birth
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	per 1,000 Live Births	per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	
Mean of 5 years 1933—37	13·7	12·3	0·34	1·10	8·68	8·21	51
Year—							
1937 ...	12·7	12·7	0·30	0·60	23·80	22·22	71
1938 ...	11·6	11·6	0·61	0·61	nil	nil	131

Increase or decrease in 1938 on—

5 years' aver 1933—37	—2·1	—0·7	+0·27	—0·49	—8·68	—8·21	+80
Previous year ...	—1·1	—1·1	+0·31	+0·01	—23·80	—22·22	+60

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Total at all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Cases re-moved to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	16			1		1	9	4	1						16		
Diphtheria	14						5	3	1	3	1	1			14		
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	1				1										1		
Pneumonia	5	2					1					2					2
Erysipelas	1										1						
	37	2		1	1	1	15	7	2	3	2	3			31		2

Causes of Deaths during the year.

	Males.	Females.
Pneumonia	3	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	1
Other Tuberculosis	0	1
Cancer	2	0
Bronchitis	0	1
Heart Disease	4	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3	2
Diabetes	0	0
Ill defined Diseases	0	0
Other defined Diseases	2	2
Senility	1	0
Congenital Debility	2	1
Digestive Disorders	1	0
Nephritis	0	1
Violence... ..	2	0
Diarrhœa under 2 years	1	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	1
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Totals	23	15

Causes of Sickness during the year.

There were 37 cases of Infectious disease notified during the year, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria chiefly. A slight epidemic of Measles occurred in March which made it necessary to close the National Infants School from March 4th to March 17th. We had a rather larger number of Diphtheria cases than we generally have, but at no time did it reach an epidemic, and we fared better than surrounding districts in this respect. On the whole the sickness has not been abnormal, nor in any way remarkable.

Nursing Arrangements.

There is one Midwife registered and 1 practising.

Hospital Accommodation.

For Smallpox—No provision.

Other Infectious Diseases :—Joint Hospital, situated at Fall Birch, Horwich, with subscription in proportion to population. There are 54 bed in all, but no special number is allotted to any one district.

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also a part-time officer holding the appointment of Rate Collector.

A Visiting Nurse is provided by the County and we have a District Maternity Nurse.

Sanitary Administration.

WATER SUPPLY.

- (a) Source of supply :—Own Waterworks. Gathering ground at Rivington (Moorland)
- (b) Condition—a good constant supply direct to all houses supplying about 920 houses.
- (c) Possibility of contamination—Practically none.

SCAVENGING.

This is satisfactorily done by Sanitary Authority.

Privy Middens are emptied by day, and refuse is disposed of by tips and land irrigation.

There is no Destructor.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Method of treatment is irrigation. Character of drainage system—Combined and separate systems.

Sanitary Inspections during the Year.

Number of premises visited	...	...	508
Defects or Nuisances discovered	...	...	115
Number abated	...	...	115
Notices served :—Informal 97 ; Statutory 18.			
Legal proceedings taken—nil.			

SMOKE NUISANCE.

No special action was taken with regard to smoke abatement.
Four observations were taken, with satisfactory results.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

None in the district.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are no Public Slaughterhouses. There are 2 private ones 1 registered, and 1 licensed. They are regularly inspected and are satisfactory

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 2 retail bakehouses which are regularly inspected.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES—None in the District.

SCHOOLS.

There are 3 schools in the district, and some sanitary improvements are required here.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

These have been inspected and their condition was found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number in the District	...	...	...	8
Collieries	...	...	...	1
Bleachworks	...	...	...	1
Weaving Sheds	...	...	...	1
Cloggers	...	...	...	2
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	1
Plumbers and Joiners	...	...	...	2
Inspections, 12				

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Number of Houses disinfected during the year—30.

Rooms are fumigated with "Tower" fumigators, and patients suffering from Infectious Disease are removed by motor Ambulance to Fall Birch Hospital.

Number of Patients admitted to Hospital during 1938—31.

Conveniences in the District.

Privy Middens—Middens	...	...	97
Closets attached	...	...	175
Pail Closets	...	...	18
Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	5
Movable Ashbins...	...	...	621
Number of Houses on Water Carriage system	..		708
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	692
Waste Water Closets	...	...	16

CONVERSIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Privy closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	7
Number of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	...	40

Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—25

1.	By Local Authority	...	...	...	24
2	By other bodies or person	...	...	...	1

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P. H. or Housing Acts) ...	...	200
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	245
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	68
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	100
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation		30
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation...	...	30

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	27
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	24
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after formal notices :			
	(a)	By Owners...	...	24
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	nil

(B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	3
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a)	By Owners	... ..	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	nil

(C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1936.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	... ..	3
2.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	... ..	11

(D) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1936.

1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	nil
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	...	1

HOUSING ACT 1936. PART 4. OVERCROWDING.

(a)	1.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	nil
	2.	Number of families dwelling therein	...
	3.	Number of persons dwelling therein	...
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Good improvements have been made during the year, rendering conditions fair, but there is still some shortage, and better conditions are demanded.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1938.

Privy Conversions, renewals of old drainage, new drainage and sewerage lines and ventilation, demolition, alteration and re-conditioning of insanitary housing.

Chief Sanitary requirements of the district.

Further privy conversions, adequate housing, re-conditioning and housing repairs.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. W. UNSWORTH, M.O.H.

Hilton House, Blackrod,
June 7th, 1939.

Schofield, Printer, Adlington.